



Testimony of Fionnuala Darby-Hudgens  
In **SUPPORT** of S.B. 291 AAC CERTAIN PROTECTIONS FOR  
GROUP AND FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES.

Sens. Lopes and Anwar, Reps. Williams and Smith, and other members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Fionnuala Darby-Hudgens. I am the Director of Operations at the [Connecticut Fair Housing Center](#). I am also a mother of two school aged children. We **support** S.B. 291.

**Municipal zoning regulations disregard the needs of residents.** Zoning limits the development of affordable housing despite the overwhelming need for affordable units. Similarly, zoning limits the ability for individuals who rent their homes to operate home childcare businesses. We know the need for quality, safe, affordable childcare close to where we live and work is essential to a thriving economy, and that it promotes equity for women in the workplace. We must ensure we preserve all possible childcare opportunities in Connecticut.

**Barriers in zoning regulations on home childcare providers have significant disparate impact on women of color, and low- and moderate-income households and workers.** 38% of home childcare operators identify as nonwhite, and more than half of the providers are in households with incomes below the 50% of the national media income.<sup>1</sup> These data suggest that home based childcare businesses provide income and support to families who need it most, and who are disproportionately non-white.

**People of color rent their homes 2:1 of white people in Connecticut.** Simply because of who rents their homes in Connecticut, limitations on the activities permitted in rental housing are inherently discriminatory.

*Personal Statement*

*I spent my early adulthood as young mother desperate to work myself out of generations of poverty. I committed to education as my pathway to economic security, and between the ages of 24-31 I earned a B.A. and then a graduate degree. I would not have been successful without access to home-based daycare. These businesses provide dependable, very affordable childcare that will operate unconventional hours in our neighborhoods. These businesses are deeply woven into the resource-communities poor women create to survive. Limiting home-based childcare opportunities will limit pathways out of poverty for women and their children.*

Sincerely,  
Fionnuala Darby-Hudgens [Finn@ctfairhousing.org](mailto:Finn@ctfairhousing.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [The Early Childhood Workforce Index 2016 - Center for the Study of Child Care Employment \(berkeley.edu\)](#)